

**CALENDAR ITEM
INFORMATIONAL**

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**INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE COMMISSION'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
POLICY PUBLIC OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The purpose of this staff report is to provide an informational update on efforts to update the California State Lands Commission Environmental Justice Policy. This staff report expands on our April 20, 2017 update to the Commission ([Calendar Item 98, April 20, 2017](#)). Staff's efforts are anchored on robust collaboration and outreach with the environmental justice community, state entities, and others. Staff outreach is underway, with staff contacting recognized leaders and advocates in the environmental justice community to learn about their priority concerns and issues in order to identify important issues and discussion topics that will shape outreach and listening sessions. Staff will use this input to formulate an effective policy and implementation strategy that reflects the needs of environmental justice communities.

On May 23, 2017, the Commission's Executive Officer participated on a panel discussion at the H2O conference in Irvine called "H2O Equity: Upholding the Sovereignty of Native Nations and Building Environmental Justice in California." The panel and the audience engaged in a robust discussion about exploring strategies for building capacity in indigenous and economically disadvantaged communities to advocate on behalf of their communities and meaningfully engage in local, state, federal and international government proceedings about fresh water, coastal and ocean health.

Staff is in the early stages of hosting outreach sessions and has just begun to scratch the surface. On June 13, 2017, staff participated in the Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network monthly meeting and following the meeting held a productive outreach session with the group. The participants presented issues and concerns relating to the extent of the Commission's jurisdiction and how it implements its authority. Staff also heard that building mutual respect and trust among individual communities, and ensuring that people know their voices are being heard, is important. Participants also expressed that putting effort into policy implementation is important, and that they would like the Commission to focus on a strategy to implement the revised policy.

The participants also recommended that staff host listening sessions with other organizations in Southern California and collaborate with the environmental justice community early in the policy update formulation process. Now, staff is in the process of planning outreach sessions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Long Beach,

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Los Angeles, Ventura, San Diego, Fresno, and Oakland, and in other areas in the State where the Commission has jurisdiction. The format will vary so staff can be flexible and responsive to the individual needs of the local environmental justice communities.

A priority element of staff's outreach is to listen and learn about the local and statewide issues, concerns, and interests facing environmental justice communities. Staff is also focused on sharing with these communities information about the Commission's vision, mission, and jurisdiction so that together we can collaborate on how the Commission's actions may impact priority concerns. From there, we can explore how to ensure, through policy development and implementation, that the Commission's programs, staffing, actions, and decisions are informed early and often through inclusive, equitable and diverse collaboration and engagement. There are many well-informed people with a deep understanding of environmental justice and equity interests who are active participants in local and statewide issues. Staff has contacted several such professionals to gain an understanding of the appropriate approaches and strategies for effectively seeking input and collaboration from environmental justice communities on a large, statewide, scale without losing the benefit of smaller, locally-focused discussions. We hope this networking will ensure that our policy development and implementation plan meets the needs of communities throughout the state that are interested in how the Commission's decisions and activities may impact their interests and communities.

The locations for our outreach sessions were selected based on where the Commission exercises the most jurisdiction and where environmental justice communities and equity interests have been identified. Staff is using the CalEnviroScreen screening tool to help identify these areas and to better target outreach efforts. CalEnviroScreen is a way to identify California communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. Staff cross-referenced the Commission's jurisdiction with counties that have high cumulative impact score. The cumulative impact score factors in public health and environmental effects from combined emissions and discharges, and environmental pollution from all sources, and impacts on sensitive populations and socioeconomic components.

The Commission is committed to integrating environmental justice principles into its planning processes, project analyses, and decisions. The Commission endeavors to promote exploring creative solutions as early in a project or proposed activity as possible that achieve project objectives while protecting affected communities and ensuring those communities are not disproportionately affected by Commission decisions. Staff will continue to keep the Commission updated about its progress.